

## 'Meistersinger' Still Without New Hans Sachs

By Sylvester Rawling.

DISAPPOINTMENT was ours at the Metropolitan Opera House last night when Clarence Whitehill failed to appear as Hans Sachs in "Die Meistersinger." Anticipations were ripe and hopes were high; for this American baritone promises to be such an exponent of the Nuremberg cobbler who was meistersinger, philosopher, poet, sage, reformer, and lovable man, idol of the common people (perhaps the greatest individual creation of Wagner's genius), such as we have not seen or heard since the memorable days of Emile Fischer. A cold was the excuse; but we knew of the cold last week when Mr. Whitehill sang Wotan in "Die Walküre." May not excess of caution be as bad as arrogant self-assurance, Mr. Whitehill? We would have overlooked hoarseness for a great conception. The season is in its twilight, and opportunities are fewer.

Nevertheless, the performance was an excellent one. Hermann Weil's Hans Sachs grows and mellowes and becomes more convincing every time he impersonates the character. Joanne Gadsden returned to the cast as Eva, one of the best of her unheroic characterizations, that served to emphasize her versatility. Then there were Otto Goritz's inimitable Beckmesser, and Jacques Urlus's impressive Walther, and Albert Reijer's David, and Kathleen Howard as Magdalene, and a sturdy band of messengers, that included Carl Braun, Carl Schlegel and Basil Ryndas, Mr. Bodanza conducting masterfully.

Percy Grainger, the Australian pianist-composer, is a humorist, not of the sardonic Richard Strauss type that an over Kultured Germany has produced in Europe, but a breezy, folksinging, clowning something for conventions that the island continent, so remote from us, on which he was born, can afford to laugh at. His suite, "In a Nutshell," which The Philharmonic Orchestra, under Mr. Stravinsky, played at Carnegie Hall last night, was a huge joke. Not content with the usual orchestra, he added four percussion instruments, a steel marimba, a piano, a hand-crimaphone, Swiss staff bells and a tambourine. These instruments, very much in evidence throughout the suite, helped the general pandemonium, here and there dispelled by the lyric moments in the so-called pastoral scenes, and, disposed and once first smitten indifferently, at what seemed to be the exuberant audacity of youth, then grinned broadly and ended by laughing good-naturedly. Mr. Grainger was the soul in the Saint-Saëns concerto No. 2. In that he displayed his versatile talent, which holds imagination, virility and rhythmic sense, to recommend her, and she has no eccentricities of manner to disturb the eye.

Concerts for two pianos happily are given at the Hotel Astor at Aeolian Hall last night by the Marion and Lee Patterson band much of interest. Two young Americans to begin with, play well. Their programme consisted of present day music, Repartit, Saint-Saëns, Schubert, Auber, Aren-

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## Modern Art Show Featured Again At the Bourgeois

By W. G. Bowdoin.

The Bourgeois Gallery, No. 685 Fifth Avenue, is showing until March 10 a series of 71 examples of modern art. The study of objectivity and subjectivity, as made by a group of European and American artists in this city, is exemplified in this showing.

The abnormality of the shown pictures produces a kind of glamor or a psychological influence, if you please, upon the visitors who go about awed and with hushed voices, but it is doubtful if any of them, no matter how enthusiastic they may be, get any real, genuine, lasting joy out of the exhibition units in the same sense that pure art appeals to the pure art lover. The element of beauty, as generally understood, being for the most part lacking, the residue, no matter with what technical skill it is bound together, fails in the alphabetic pictorial essential.

Man Ray is represented by three mechanical drawings. These show a certain skill in his management of rule and compass, as well as ability in lettering, but that is all. He does not even take the trouble to trim off the rough edges of his cardboard in his No. 51, and he sends it to the exhibition as his representative without removing the nailholes and without a glass.

Walter Pach's "The Cathedral," is a simple and most impressive theme, which he has converted into a weird dream fantasy or a nightmare.

Adolf Wolf contributes three numbers in the catalogue, all designated "Three-Dimensional Study." They were shown at the Modern Gallery about a year ago, and their ultimate significance is now as much in the date as in the work itself.

The three contributions of William J. Glackens include the head of a girl and two flower studies. They are all painted in exceedingly rich colors that have altogether gotten beyond his control. They are freakish and unpleasantly combined. They

are all lacking in both finish and technique.

Mario Laurentin contributes the "Head of a Woman." It is a sorry caricature that strongly resembles one of the flat-head Indians.

Elsie Melfren, the Spanish painter, has an exhibition at the Gould Gallery, No. 58 West Forty-fifth Street, until March 10. He has included some portraits not before exhibited.

The canvases, as shown, are for the most part under the spell of the great "out doors." M. Melfren is evidently a "Nature Lover." At any rate he has painted her in many moods and always with a sympathetic feeling for the woods, the fields, the garden and the homely themes he has so charmingly translated.

WESTCHESTER NOTES.

An unusually large number of signatures are seeking citizen papers at the Westchester County Clerk's office. To-day twenty-four first papers were issued and fifteen depositions were filed. On March 9 Supreme Court Justice William P. Platt will preside over the naturalization hearings. It is expected that he will have to pass upon more than 200 final papers.

The suit for \$100,000 damages brought by Aretha M. Brink as administrator of the estate of S. Dana Kimball of Mount Vernon against the Erie Railroad Company for his death while en route to New York, will be heard by the Appellate Division. A jury decided in favor of the corporation, it is being claimed that Mr. Kimball met his death through his own negligence.

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